THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAV MUKHERJEE) : (a) Contribution of Tobacco Crop Statewise :

State	1991–92 Production (M. Kgs.)	Average Production over last 3 years (M. Kgs)
Andhra Pradesh	254.3	214.8
Assam	1.3	1.43
Bihar	8.6	12.37
Gujarat	154.3	176.70
Haryana	Negligible	0 0
Himachal Pradesh	0.1	0.10
Jammu & Kashmir	Negligible	Negligible
Karnataka	43.6	36.50
Kerala	0.6	0.63
Madhya Pradesh	0.5	0.60
Maharashtra	8.0	9.43
Meghalaya	0.5	0.50
Mizoram	0.8	0.73
Orissa	9.6	9.40
Rajasthan	2.2	3.43
Tamil Nadu	8.7	11.30
Tripura	0.3	0.3
Uttar Pradesh	71.7	70.33
West Bengal	13.7	13.43
All India Total	578.8	562.08

(b) to (d) M|s. R. J. Reynolds Tobacco International S.A., Switzerland has obtained approval for setting up a joint venture in India for the manufacture of tobacco and cigarettes. They have projected net tobacco exports of 10,800 tonnes valued at US $ 74 million over five years. A new company in the name and style of M|s. Modi RJR Ltd. has been incorporated to implement the foreign collaboration approval and Letter of Intent.

(e) Adequate quantity of tobacco would be available from the existing area to meet the initial requirement of the project.

(f) For the present (1993-94) enhancement of FVC tobacco production is not contemplated.

IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND TRADE GAP

2364. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state commodity-wise break up of major exports and imports during the past two years and projections for 1994-95 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Details of export and imports for major commodities|groups for the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and April-September '93 during 1993-94 are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXIX, Annexure No. 54] Export target for the current year has been fixed at US $ 22132 million (Rs. 70842 crores). The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) envisages export growth of 13.6 percent per annum in volume terms. No targets are set for imports.

CANCELLATION OF EXPORT LICENCES BY TEA BOARD

2365. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Financial Express, dated 2-12-93 captioned "Tea Board cancel export-licence of three farms" and suspended licence of three others engaged in the sale of tea to Russia;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reasons advanced by the Tea Board therefor;

(c) what was the total number of tea shipment licence issued during the current year ending November, as compared to the corresponding period last year indicating overseas|internal demand for Indian tea as compared to demand of tea to other countries :

(d) whether it is a fact that in terms of exports, even Sri Lanka had overtaken India; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to shift from greater volumes of tea exports to higher value-added export of tea in order to compete with other countries, and the steps taken so far to increase the standards of packaging industry in respect of tea in India ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Complaints have been received by the Tea Board against a few Indian exporters for exports of substandard and inferior quality teas. These complaints have been looked into by the Tea Board and action has been taken under the provisions of the Tea (Distribution & Export) Control Order, 1957 against such exporters. Accordingly, Tea Board have cancelled the tea exporters licence of M|s. Amusar Impex Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta and M/s. Dolphin International Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. Exporters licence of M|s. India Tea Produce Co. Ltd., Calcutta and M|s. Jainsons Export Corporation, New Delhi have been suspended by the Tea Board. Tea Board has also initiated proceedings against another firm, which field a writ petition before Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta and the matter is subjudice.

(c) Shipment licences issued for exports of tea during April-November 1993 were of the order of 139.81 million kgs. as against 133.62 million kgs. during the corresponding period of previous year. Increase in the shipment licences during the current year indicates higher demand of Indian teas in the importing countries, Domestic consumption of tea during the current year is estimated at 560 million kgs as compared to 540 millon kg during 1992.

(d) While in quantitative terms exports of tea from Sri Lanka are higher than exports of Indian tea, in terms of value, Indian exports have been higher than that of Sri Lanka. Main reason for higher quantum of exports of tea by Sri Lanka in quantitative terms is the negligible domestic demand for the tea in Sri Lanka.

(e) Steps taken to boost exports of value added teas include uninational promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices aborad. (i) It consists of : participation in trade fairs|exhibitions, (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness towards various unique characteristics of Indian tea, (iii) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through Tea Board marketing symbol and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. A part of the expenditure incurred by importers for promotional compaigns are met from Tea Board budget. Tea